

I. Currently Pending Claims

1. (original) An imaging apparatus comprising a mouse pad.
2. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mouse pad comprises an object-to-be-imaged support surface.
3. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 1 wherein said imaging apparatus further comprises a camera positioned in spaced-apart relationship with said mouse pad.
4. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 3 wherein said camera comprises a digital camera.
5. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 2 wherein said camera has an image window and wherein said mouse pad is at least coextensive with said image window.
6. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mouse pad comprises object-to-be-imaged positioning indicia.
7. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 6 wherein said object-to-be-imaged positioning indicia comprises graphics.
8. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 6 wherein said object-to-be-imaged positioning indicia comprises at least one peripheral edge portion of said mouse pad.
9. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 6 wherein said positioning indicia correspond to an image window of a camera.

10. (original) The imaging apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mouse pad is physically attached to a base portion of said imaging apparatus.

11. (original) A work assembly comprising:
a computer; and
an optical imaging apparatus operably connected to said computer and having an object-to-be-imaged locator comprising a mouse pad.

12. (original) A computer mouse pad comprising indicia for aligning an object to be imaged with an imaging apparatus.

13. (original) The mouse pad of claim 12 wherein said indicia comprise graphical indicia.

14. (original) The mouse pad of claim 12 wherein said indicia comprise at least one peripheral edge portion of said mouse pad.

15. (original) The mouse pad of claim 12 wherein said indicia correspond to an image window of said imaging apparatus.

16. (original) An imaging apparatus comprising:
means for supporting an object to be imaged;
means for co-acting with a computer mouse;
wherein said means for supporting comprises said means for co-acting.

17. (original) A work assembly comprising:
means for computing having a computer mouse operably connected thereto;
means for imaging an object; and

means for positioning said object relative to said imaging means and for co-acting with said mouse.

18. (original) A method of data acquisition and processing comprising: placing a mouse pad in registration with the field of view of an imaging device;

placing an object on the mouse pad; and
imaging the object on the mouse pad.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
operating a computer mouse on the mouse pad.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein operating a computer mouse on the mouse pad comprises operating the mouse with the mouse pad in registration with the field of view of the imaging device.

21. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein operating a computer mouse on the mouse pad comprises operating the mouse with the mouse pad removed from registration with the field of view of the imaging pad removed from registration with the field of view of the imaging device.

22. (original) A method of saving space on a desk top supporting a computer with a computer mouse and an overhead imaging device comprising:

providing a mouse pad adapted to co-act with the mouse; and
using the mouse pad as an object locator for the overhead imaging device.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Philips PCVC750K Instruction Manual (hereinafter "*Philips*"). Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Philips is a printout of a web page (or pages) found at <http://www.pc-cameras.philips.com/manuals/english/win/pcvc750k/02.html> & <http://www.pc-cameras.philips.com/manuals/english/win/pcvc750k/09.html>. The only relevant date appearing on *Philips* reads "Copyright © 2001 Philips Components BV" (this notation appears at the end of section 9.2).

The Examiner appears to be relying upon this copyright notation to establish *Philips* as prior art relative to the present application. Applicant respectfully asserts that the copyright notation appearing on *Philips* cannot be considered conclusive proof regarding when the information contained in the web page(s) in question first became available to the public. In any event, the question of when *Philips* first became available to the public is believed to be moot in view of the fact that applicant has (as discussed below) established an invention date prior to even the alleged date of *Philips*. Applicant, however, reserves the right to, in the future, raise the issue of the effective date of *Philips* should it become relevant.

Since *Philips* lists only a general date of 2001, it is asserted that applicant need only show invention prior to December 31, 2001, in order to remove *Philips* as a reference relative to the present application. Applicant has submitted herewith a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131 of the inventor, Modest Khovaylo. The Declaration establishes that conception occurred prior to December 31, 2001 (see paragraphs 2-4 of the declaration), with reference to two Exhibits. The declaration also establishes diligence toward completing a constructive reduction to practice (i.e., the filing of the present application) from a period prior to December 31, 2001, until the filing date of the present application (see paragraphs 5-8 of the declaration). Accordingly, the

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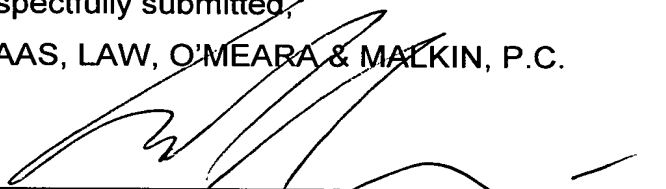
Examiner's rejection is believed to be overcome.

Applicant notes, for the record, that *Philips* is not a 35 U.S.C. §102(e) reference because it is not a patent or a patent application.

In view of the above, the Examiner's rejection is believed to be overcome and all of the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Re-examination and reconsideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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By



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